

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS A KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
COLEOPTERA OF AUSTRALIA.

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No. IV.—DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF  
*OEDEMERIDÆ*.

The genus which I here describe is remarkable among the whole of the heteromerous Coleoptera for the peculiar construction of its antennæ. It is allied to *Nacertes* and *Ananca*, but differs from them, as it does from every other member of the family *Oedemeridæ* known to me, in having certain joints of its antennæ enormously dilated and the metasternum produced into two sharp spines posteriorly. The structure of the antennæ is fully described below, but I would draw particular attention to the form of the seventh joint which is quite unlike anything I have observed before. In shape it is pyriform, cup-like, and of considerable depth; but whether this structure is sexual or not is a question which cannot be determined at present.

Unfortunately I have not been able to examine the mouth-organs and sexual characters as carefully as I could wish as I have only a single exponent of the species, which I captured, together with some new and interesting Clavicorns, at Longford, Tasmania, during January 1886, on the flowers of *Leptospermum*.

*ITHACA*, gen. nov.

Body elongate, finely pubescent. Head moderately large, transverse, broadly but not very deeply depressed between the eyes. Mentum transverse, narrowed behind, very feebly emarginate in front. Maxillary palpi 4-jointed, rather robust, the

penultimate joint considerably shorter than the preceding one, the last joint dilated and obliquely truncated at the apex. Labial palpi short, 3-jointed. Eyes transverse, oval and entire. Antennæ inserted near the front of the internal margin of the eyes, 11-jointed; the basal joint longer than the two following ones together, joints 2-4 of nearly equal lengths, 5-7 enormously dilated externally—the 5th irregularly pyriform and concave, the 6th broadly transverse and concave, the 7th longer than broad, cup-shaped, rounded behind and truncate in front—8th joint much shorter and narrower, slightly dilated externally, 9th feebly dilated externally, 10th and 11th cylindrical, the latter about twice as long as the former. Prothorax longer than broad, narrowed behind; the sides rounded in front. Scutellum rounded behind. Elytra elongate, parallel, rounded behind. Metasternum long, emarginate behind, with a sharp spine on each side of the emargination projecting over the posterior coxæ. Abdomen with five visible segments, the last segment bilobed. Legs: all the tibiæ with two apical spines; the anterior and intermediate tarsi 5-jointed, the posterior tarsi 4-jointed; the penultimate joint of all the tarsi strongly bilobed; claws very slightly dilated at the base.

*ITHACA ANTHINA*, sp. n.

Elongate, parallel, dark fuscous, somewhat shining, moderately closely covered with fine grey pubescence; prothorax and anterior legs pale testaceous; head, first two, and the 5th and 6th joints of the antennæ pitchy black; the 3rd, 4th, 7th (except the margin), and the dilated portions of the 8th and 9th joints reddish testaceous.

Head transverse, closely, irregularly and moderately strongly punctured, broadly depressed in the middle, testaceous between and in front of the antennæ; mandibles, except at the tips, and palpi testaceous; mentum pitchy black. Antennæ almost as long as the entire insect. Prothorax considerably longer than broad, narrowed behind, moderately strongly and irregularly punctured, somewhat depressed both in front and behind, with an indistinct

fuscous spot near the anterior margin on each side of the middle ; anterior angles strongly rounded ; the sides slightly constricted behind the middle. Scutellum finely and not very closely punctured. Elytra more than twice as long as the head and prothorax together, closely and moderately strongly rugulose-punctate ; each elytron with three obscure costæ ; the external apical angles obtuse ; the internal angles rounded. Underside rather finely and closely punctured ; the prosternum testaceous ; the mesosternum, metasternum, and abdominal segments dark fuscous with a steel-blue tinge ; the metasternum thickly clothed with long grey pubescence at the sides, the space between the posterior processes without pubescence and finely aciculate. Legs moderately long ; the anterior pair testaceous with the bases of the femora and the tips of the tibiæ fuscous ; the intermediate and posterior pairs fuscous with the knees and the tips of the tibiæ dark reddish testaceous. Length  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

Longford, Tasmania.

A single specimen captured settling on the flowers of *Leptospermum*. Except for its antennæ this remarkable species has the *facies* of the *Telephoridae*, but its heteromerous tarsi and spined metasternum are characters which at once distinguish it from the Malacoderms.